

From: Greg Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 11:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Judge,

I like many I know have been viewing the Microsoft litigation with a whole range of emotions. First disbelief that the government was seriously taking on such a powerful force. Next observing some judicial success and what appeared to be a serious effort to right an obvious wrong, I was very encouraged. With the reversals since the elections and many publicized Microsoft donations, my skepticism of my elected officials returned. However, nothing can compare to outrage I felt when I heard the Microsoft's settlement proposal.

A proposal which is so obviously meant squash what little competition it has in the education market. The audacity is something I should have suspected Microsoft of. What baffles me is why, when proposed, the instant response was not "Microsoft, you just don't get it?"

There are many good options which would create competition in the software industry. Forcing Microsoft to spend money it earns from overpriced software we are forced to purchase on anything seems absurd. How is that solution, it's hardly even a penalty, Microsoft can charge anything it likes for it's products. It already charges several orders of magnitude more than the industry for it's mediocre products. How about some obvious solutions, obvious to anyone who has been in the computer business for a while, like Microsoft.

How about JAVA. Force Microsoft to include Sun's VM with Windows and make it really work. Or how about "Open Doc." This would truly put the software industry in full motion. Microsoft was so worried about this software at one time it had to force Apple to discontinue it with drastic action. I suspect a breakup may also bring the software industry out in force with new and useful products.

I hope you can see through Microsoft's fog of absurd statements and massive political contributions to do some thing to eliminate the vise Microsoft has on the software industry.

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